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CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

Vol. 11. No. 4. 54 Renwick Street, Marrickville. — Tel.: 55-6877 February 9, 1968.

Saigon not safe place

The ASF must urgently reconsider its decision to send a team to Saigon in November for the National Day Tournament, a high-ranking ASF official said this week.

"Recent events have proved that no part of South Vietnam, including Saigon, is safe," he said. "Exposing the best Australian players to undue danger is totally irresponsible."

The official said the ASF should urgently revise its touring plans and find a substitute for the Saigon Tourney, which could be regarded as a tune-up for the World Cup elimination matches.

"I feel there is still time left to vote for the Merdeka Tournament."

"I see no reason why we shouldn't change our plans and decide in favor of the Merdeka which is staged in a peaceful country and also enjoys much higher prestige."



JIM SAYS DRAW GREAT

Ian McAndrew, secretary of the ASF, said he was "disappointed" with Australia's draw in the World Cup.

"FIFA disregarded our request to include Oceanic Confederation members, Australia and New Zealand in the same group," he said.

"Oceania, as a separate, autonomous and fully-fledged FIFA Confederation, was entitled to its own sub-group, the winner playing off with an Asian team for a berth in Mexico."

NSW president, Jim Bayutti, the man who fought hardest for Australia to participate in the World Cup, was delighted with the draw, however.

"Australia must be favored to win its sub-group," he said.

"And equally as important, Japan and South Korea can be built up into good drawcards."

"With competent publicity the subgroup matches could reap a financial bonanza."

Manly goalkeeper Tuinman thwarts a Canterbury attack last Sunday. — Photo by Tim Pockley

AUSSIES TO FACE TOUGH CUP TIES

— By PAUL DEAN —

Within the next 18 months or so, Australia is likely to face the three strongest Asian countries in full internationals.

At the FIFA meeting in Casablanca, Australia was drawn into the same group with Japan, South Korea and Rhodesia.

Rhodesia are likely to withdraw but even if they don't, should be the lesser of our headaches.

Anybody who underestimates either South Korea or Japan is making a very big mistake.

EVEN MONEY

"The South Koreans play excellent football," Australian national team coach Joe Vlasits said this week.

"When we beat them recently, everything went well for us; we played our best game and a Korean was sent off."

"But I'm not sure whether we would win even three out of five against them."

As for the Japanese, their improvement in recent years has been startling; with their methodical mind and generous approach, they have been systematically preparing to reach world standards.

Said Vlasits: "The way I see it, any of the three countries can finish first in our group."

"Australia must not make the mistake of underestimating these teams."

"The preparation we had for the recent Saigon

tournament would not be nearly enough for these World Cup elimination ties.

"If we want to win at least our group, we have to blend a team together and give them as many matches as possible before the vital ties."

Should Australia finish first in the group, we will have to play the winner of the second Asian group which includes New Zealand, Israel and the feared North Korea.

The New Zealanders may decide to quit now in the face of heavy odds.

While Israel's soccer is continuously improving, the hot favorites here are the North Koreans, our conquerors in 1965 and the sensations of the World Cup finals in 1966.

The ASF must begin its planning now, at all levels — technical, administrative, even diplomatic.

DIPLOMACY

We must plan on the hopeful basis that Australia can win its sub-group and may have to face the North Koreans for a berth in the Mexico finals.

It would be advisable to make sure that despite lack of diplomatic relations between our countries, the North Korean team is allowed to play in Australia and ours over there.

This would draw an absolute capacity house in either Sydney or Melbourne, as could the matches against South Korea and Japan.

★ OUR FULL, EXCLUSIVE WORLD CUP ELIMINATION DRAW IS ON PAGE 8.

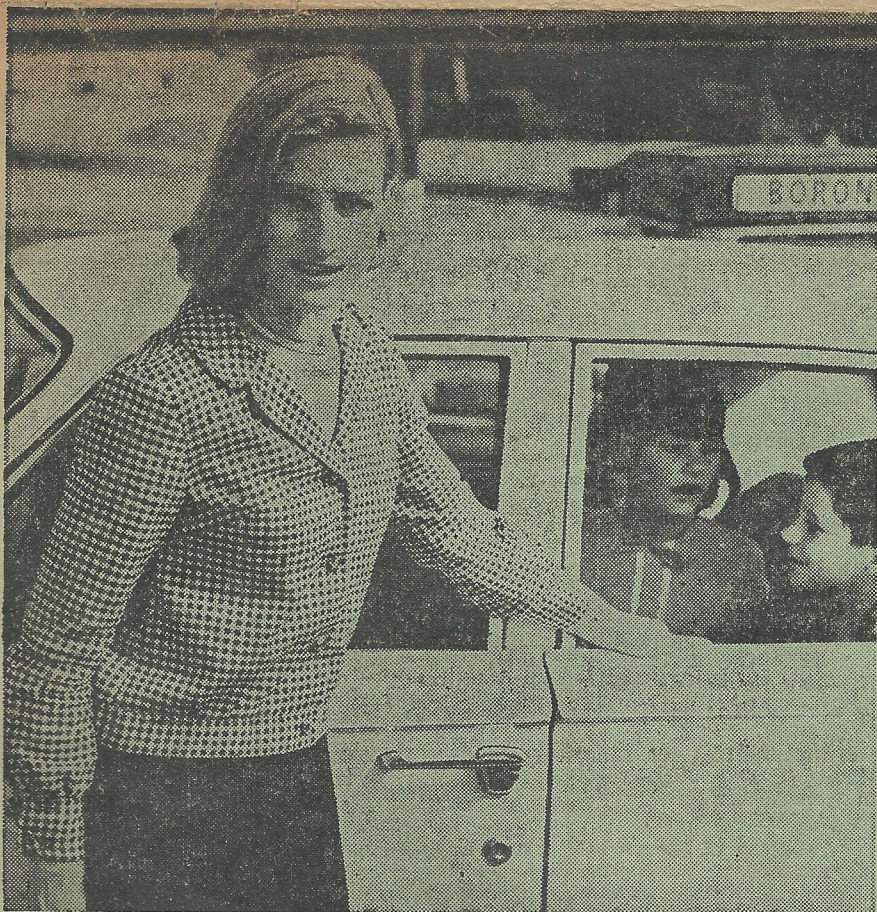
Player rule is changed

An Extraordinary Council meeting last week voted to change the definition of a "local player" under the quota rule.

In future a local player will be one born in Australia, one who came here before his 20th birthday, one who is a naturalised Australian or one who has been an Australian resident for at least three years.

At the end of 1966 the NSW Council voted to introduce its first quota rule under which a local player was one either born here or one who arrived here before his 18th birthday.

At the end of 1967 the same Council voted to retain this rule; it lasted exactly two months.



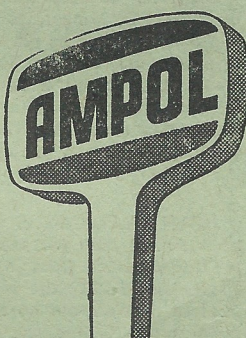
I have the children to consider...

I want to give them a good education. Well, Ampol helps there, giving grants to universities, spending money on the progress of knowledge.

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Inter-Sub. League is strongest ever

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Amateur clubs are getting into stride by arranging practice grounds and trials in preparation for the Inter-Suburban season, which commences on the week-end of March 30/31.

The season's roster leaves Easter Monday 15th April free.

One round is set down for Queen's Birthday week-end, with most clubs to play on Saturday June 8 or Sunday June 9, with the Monday vacant.

Clubs will be required to double up to bring fixtures back to schedule should games be postponed due to weather.

Semifinals in Divisions I, II and III will be played on September 1, and the finals on September 8.

Any club may normally field a maximum of four ex-contract players, provided that special permission is previously granted by the Federation.

This year, clubs may replace the goalkeeper at any time during the game, and one field player up to and including the half time interval.

Amongst the new grounds to be used are Loftus Oval (Rovers club), Meadowbank No. 3 (West Ryde Rovers), and Campbelltown Showground (Campbelltown).

Belmore is trying to secure Blick Oval, which would be a very fitting ground for its matches.

It is too early to comment on team strengths, although there is little doubt that the Inter-Suburban League presents the strongest intermediate competitions ever fielded in Sydney.

Division I clubs this year are: Blacktown United (ex Federation Div. II), Belmore, East Side-MTK (promoted from Inter-Suburban Div II), Ryde, South Sydney, Wentworth, Artamon, Thistle, Concordia, University of New South Wales, Marrickville and Lidcombe.

Gladesville active

Gladesville-Hornsby Association president, Mr. Jack Woods, will this year be giving an active hand with coaching.

He is preparing the under-15s for the 1968 representative series.

At least two other leading Sydney junior officials,

Eric Arneil (Bankstown) and Sid Tanner (St. George) actively coach representative teams.

Woods expects Gladesville to field under-14, 15, 16 and 17 years representative teams, and he is confident that the Inter-Suburban club under Andy McLaughlin will become a strong force.

Woods played football for many years in the district, later becoming an official and coach with the prominent Gladesville Ravens club, who have their own ground, Peel Park, on a 20-year Council lease.

His ambitions are clear-cut:

1. To develop local players through to their own First Division district club.
2. To influence soccer towards the day when Australian players can compete with the world's best.

Ambitious? Yes.

Unrealistic?

Time will tell, but you will accomplish nothing unless you try.

Junior tactics

The 4-3-3 and other patterns are slowly influencing junior soccer in NSW.

More planning to improve team results by the employment of latest tactical methods and the blending of available players to the system chosen will give better results.

Alternatively, and often with greater ultimate benefit, the capacities of the players can determine the strategy used.

Too often we still depend on sheer physical power and packed defence rather than reading the game as a challenge in speed of thought, improvisation and imagination.

Gradual progress in this direction is certain where Associations set up their own coaches organisations in their district.

If 1968 saw more enterprise in this direction, it would be just another feather in the cap of the junior football movement.

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

JOHN WARREN won the yearly award in the "St. George Leader" for the most outstanding achievement of any St. George-based sportsman in 1967. Previous award winners include Reg Gasnier, cricketer Booth, athlete Alby Thomas and swimmer Kathy Wainwright.

PHILLIP HAIGH, Hakoah's third grade goalkeeper last season, played the second half in the first team against South Coast at Woonona last Sunday. Haigh, an Australian, will be the Hakoah reserve keeper this year. A very promising custodian, he may soon follow in the footsteps of Peter Fuzes.

GERRY HOOD, who had trained with Melita Eagles throughout the week, volunteered to play for Canterbury in the second half of their match against Manly last Sunday when Scott retired injured. Canterbury rejected a \$3,600 offer for their star forward from Melita last week. Negotiations are still in progress.

VIC BRAY, secretary-manager of Bankstown Soccer Club Ltd., was involved in a car accident whilst on holidays. Vic and his family escaped uninjured, but the car badly needs the help of a panelbeater.

JIM KELLY hopes to coax Jim Harris out of retirement. The South Coast coach is convinced Harris still has plenty of good football left and would be invaluable at halfback or centre-half. Kelly hopes to be fit to play himself soon. The former Blackpool star is in close touch with two English professionals he hopes to bring out before the start of the competition.

Prague stopper DAVID ZEMAN might have to stay on the sidelines for a while longer. He pulled a muscle at his first training run after returning from holidays and is still unfit.

LASZLO KOVACS, Stefan Nemet's Wellington-Hungaria team-mate arrived in Sydney last Sunday to join Melita Eagles. He was met at Mascot by team-manager Sammy Sammut and is expected to play in this weekend's Ampol Cup match.

REX FOSTER, the burly red-haired centre-forward of Gladesville in the mid-fifties is making a comeback to First Division football, as a coach this time. Foster will take over Croatia's third grade side. He has been playing for an Earlwood amateur team since his retirement from the "big time" in 1958.

The ROTHMAN'S National Sports Foundation will sponsor an audio-visual film on soccer coaching in conjunction with the Australian Federation and the Australian Soccer Coaches Federation. The three bodies may also combine to produce a soccer coaching manual.

A Swiss forward from the reserve team of GRASSHOPERS (Zurich) is keen to join St. George-Budapest.

Polonia officials were shocked when goalie JAN BOUT failed to turn up at the Showground last Friday after he had been selected to play against Pan Hellenic. Drewniak, a late replacement, played so well, however, that he is likely to remain permanently in the first team.

ANDY SAGI has joined Hakoah. He will coach their third grade side.

STEVE LALIC, the Yugal forward, will have to undergo a hernia operation as a result of an accident at work.

GEORGE COUSINS, who was to coach Blacktown United this season, has resigned and the club is now looking for another coach.

IAN HILLSDON won't play against St. George on Sunday. He's on holidays and will be replaced by Hakoah's new signing — 22-year-old GRAHAM SUTHERLAND from Auburn.

ERIC BRADSHAW, the Thistle fullback, has been appointed head groundsman at the Bankstown Soccer Club Limited's ground. Bradshaw spent many years green-keeping at a local golf course.

RICHARD URBANIAK, Polonia's new forward from Adelaide, is still suffering from an old injury, which he aggravated against St. George a fortnight ago. Urbaniak will be inactive for at least two weeks.

Sydney's acute shortage of GROUNDS is reaching critical proportions. Last Saturday Melita and St. George had to play at Camden Oval at St. Peters as no other ground was available in the entire Metropolitan area. The match ended in a 2-2 draw.

According to an official club communique, MELBOURNE HSC have lodged a complaint against St. George-Budapest for alleged poaching of Attila Abonyi. The matter now rests with the Victorian SF and the ASF.

ALLAN WESTWATER matries his Scottish sweetheart on Friday. The Pan Hellenic skipper, however, will take the field against South Coast the following week.

CORINTHIANS will sign six promising amateurs in the near future but the club is still seeking new players of any age group to join the club. The management also welcomes any former players and members who lost touch with the club over the years. Training for the 1968 season will start immediately and a trial game has been tentatively arranged for February 11.

JOHN SAXTON has been elected as the new secretary of Corinthians.

As a matter of interest: at the Extraordinary Federation meeting which voted on the issue of "local player" rule, two Second Division clubs and the Coaches' Federation were ABSENT.

BERNIE GOLD, the former Hakoah winger, is now in England where he plays for Wingate, the London Jewish club. Gold scored a goal in his first game for them, and was instrumental in Wingate winning their first match of the season 3-1.

JOHN GALAMBOS may soon find a club for himself; at the moment both Melita Eagles and St. George are interested and it's not so much his transfer fee but the player's own terms that stand in the way of a quick signing.

Stop Press

According to a late report from Paris, FIFA will suggest that all elimination matches in the Oceanic and Asian World Cup group be played as a tournament in Japan. All matches in this group must be completed by December 31, 1969.

Under pressure from the NSW Federation, the ASF has decided to shift the venue of its February AGM from SURFERS PARADISE to Brisbane.

JOCK GIBBONS, the former Hakoah coach, is now in charge of Kenya's international side. Under his tutelage, Kenya recently won the East African Championship.

Bankstown will hold an ATHLETIC carnival on Sunday, February 18, during which professional sprint races will also be held over 110 yds. and 440 yds. for some valuable prizes. The club hopes that some of Sydney's top players will be interested enough to compete. Gerry Thomas at the Bankstown Soccer Club can provide the details. (Telephone 70-7467).

Prague's PAVEL MOLNAR injured a couple of ribs when he collided with Stan Ackerley in last Sunday's match. The 32-year-old former Czechoslovakian international — 20 "caps" — has one consolation: his family is expected soon from Czechoslovakia.

Hakoah's Scottish forward, DAVID KEDDIE, arrives on Saturday.

Pan Hellenic's new forward from Greece, ACHILLES SAVIDIS, is expected in Sydney within a fortnight when his visa comes through the Australian Embassy in Athens. Savidis played for Kilkashankos.

MARON ALAGICH and his wife gave a christening party for their grand-daughter, Nicole, Joe's first child, at their home last weekend. Yugal secretary, Maron Kovacevich was the baby's godfather. Nicole's maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kalajich, who have also been connected with Yugal for many years, were farewelled at the party before their trip to North and South America.

Sydney's RADIO and TELEVISION Stations have chosen to ignore the Ampol Cup. Even the ABC will not give Sunday's results on their 6.15 p.m. sports programme which lists every result, from sailing to archery, but not soccer.

At Polonia-NS' Extraordinary AGM last Sunday, E. CHMIELEWSKI was elected president. To solve the club's financial difficulties, 150 members pledged donations to be paid in weekly installments throughout the year.

Over the last five years, the ASF has DISTRIBUTED an astonishing total of \$410,000 to the various State Federations from tour and pool revenues.

The Prague and Canterbury LADIES teams will meet at 8 a.m. on Sunday at Riverwood Oval. The ground is situated off Illawarra Road, before you get to Earlwood.

In a friendly match last Sunday, SOUTH COAST beat Hakoah 2-0 at Woonona. Watkiss played one half with Hakoah. Newcomer from Fleetwood, Adrian Alston, scored both goals in an impressive debut.

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AUBURN S.F.C.

Junior boys over the age of 14 interested in playing for the above club are requested to attend interviews at Mona Park, Auburn, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For further details contact secretary,

BRIAN LEONARD, 648-2719.

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SOCCER'S FOOTHOLD STRONG IN N. GUINEA

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Australian Coaches Federation president, Denes Adrigan, this week denied a report from Port Moresby (see SOCCER WORLD, January 19) that soccer in Papua-New Guinea was faced with a crisis.

"To judge soccer's true position in Papua-New Guinea you must visit every centre to get the overall picture of the code in the Territory," he said.

"This, the Port Moresby-based writer of the article which appeared in SOCCER WORLD obviously did not have."

Adrigan is in the position to comment on the soccer scene in the islands.

He recently spent four weeks touring Papua-New Guinea on a coaching assignment, sponsored jointly by the Australian Federation and the Rothman's National Sports Foundation.

This was his second visit to the Territory in eleven months as he also visited there in November-December 1966.

Adrigan returned to Australia with glowing reports about Papua-New Guinea soccer.

"You can dismiss the Sydney Press' propaganda about the natives being 'Rugby League-crazy,'" he said.

Top sport

"The truth is that soccer is by far the most popular sport throughout the entire width and breadth of the islands, and will never be seriously challenged, despite active campaigning by rival codes.

"Up in the Telefomin region, close to the West Irian border, where natives still live in the Stone Age, I was amazed to see splendid kids kicking a soccer ball around. 'Soccer balls are freely available,' he added, 'because missionaries and patrol officers carry some with them to win friends in isolated areas — a shrewd gesture which never fails.'"

Adrigan was told by Territorial administrators that soccer is not only the most popular sport, but also helps the administration to bring the natives into the modern age and make better citizens of them.

At the Papua-New Guinea Annual General Meeting, at which Adrigan assisted as an observer, it was decided to draw up a new constitution to reorganise the entire structure of the code.

The Territory was split into four autonomous regions: Papua (Port Moresby), New Guinea (Lae, Goroka, Medang), New Guinea Highlands (Mount Hagen, Wewak) and New Guinea Islands (Rabaul, Bougainville, Manus Island).

Contagious optimism

The AGM elected a new president — Werner Knoll — and a new general-secretary — Don Horben.

The new administration will model itself on the Australian soccer set-up.

The four regions will be independent and conduct their affairs separately like the Australian State federations, but they will work together with the National Coaches Federation, which was recently formed, and the referees organisation.

Denes Adrigan was impressed by the buoyancy and optimism radiated by every section of the soccer community throughout the Territory.

That the enthusiasm is contagious is clearly evident by Adrigan's high hopes for the development of the code in the area.

Adrigan, however, is convinced it is imperative that Australia give the Territory a helping hand, either directly

or through the Oceanic Confederation, on which Papua-New Guinea pin high hopes.

"I stick to my prediction that with proper planning and coaching there is enough natural talent in Papua-New Guinea to ensure that in the foreseeable future the country will develop into a soccer force capable of participating in World Cup and Olympic competition," he asserted.

"If Australia, the Oceanic Confederation, and FIFA, do the right thing, the Territory can put itself on the soccer map as one of the South-east Asian and Pacific region's leading countries.

"I saw more natural talent in Papua-New Guinea than in Australia.

"The native's greatest handicap is his diet which prevents him from developing the necessary physical stamina to reach the top and fulfil his

his undoubted potential immediately.

"Given the Australian's living conditions, healthy nutrition and more temperate climate, the Papuan player would have made his mark in Southeast Asian soccer a long time ago," Adrigan added.

Papua-New Guinea is very keen to take part in Asian competition.

They hope to be invited eventually to the Merdeka Tournament, and they, contrary to Australia, would gladly accept, even if it meant raising the money themselves.

In order to gain international experience, the Papua-New Guinea national team will visit NSW this month to play Combined Sydney Second Division XI's.

Next, a tour of the British Solomon Islands is planned, and in 1969 the South

Pacific Games will be staged in Port Moresby.

In one respect, the Territory is better off than Sydney: they have better grounds, according to Adrigan, who watched club matches attended by 3,000 spectators.

Far from being worried about soccer's future in Papua-New Guinea, Denes Adrigan is convinced the future has never been brighter.

"But what's more important is that the untiring efforts made by local soccer officials and district commissioners, government officials, church and native leaders are not wasted.

"These people realise that soccer has a vital part to play in the advancement, not only of Papua-New Guinea sport, but also of the country as a whole," Adrigan concluded.

...OR SO THEY SAY

"I have no other alternative than to appeal," Watkiss said. "I thought \$8,000 was asking a bit much, but this is too ridiculous for words. APIA got their money's worth out of me when I joined them from Canterbury four years ago for \$3,000. Their decision has made me more determined than ever to leave the club."

(Sun, Jan. 31)

"I have no alternative but to appeal," Watkiss said yesterday. "I thought \$8,000 was asking a bit much, but this is too ridiculous for words," he said. "APIA have got their money's worth out of me since I joined the club four years ago from Canterbury-Marrickville for a transfer fee of \$3,000. APIA's decision to increase my transfer fee has made me even more determined to leave the club."

(Australian, Feb. 1)

"Are the big League Clubs awake to the fact that coming events may be casting shadows ahead and, if so, are they big enough to transfer their support to soccer? Despite the progress soccer is vious limitations, it needs the vious limitations, it need the 'push' the League clubs could give. Only the lack of big playing areas and harmonious administration has kept soccer in check but it is destined to become the most popular football code in Australia."

(F.C. Willis, Mosman, in the Sun, Jan. 31).

"The new rule regarding local players, as far as I can see, is practically an open go for one and all. Originally the idea was to increase the number of local youngsters in our top teams and at the same time increase local support. Now it seems anyone who has been in Australia for three years — and he could be 40 — qualifies. What nonsense! This is a complete farce. At a rough check there are only about seven or eight players in the whole of the first division who do not qualify as 'local' players."

(Mirror, Feb. 2)

"Tonight's Ampol Cup match at the Showground between Hakoah and South Coast United will be significant for centre-forward Graham Webster. Webster played for South Coast last season, but he transferred to Hakoah-Eastern Suburbs and tonight's game will be his first against his old club."

(Herald, Feb. 2)

"The World Cup draw has favored us and if we can make the final sixteen we will be collecting at least a quarter of a million dollars. No effort and not a single cent must be spared to achieve this," said Jim Bayutti.

(Mirror, Feb. 2)

"The national team will be required to play eight international matches by May, 1969 and four of these will be played in Australia. In 1965 North Korea beat Australia 6 to 1 and 6 to 3 to qualify for the 1966 cup."

(Sun, Feb. 2)

"Les Scheinflug equalised for Prague after 20 minutes from a penalty 10 yards in front."

(Herald, Feb. 5)

"Blooding" didn't worry seashiders

— By ALAN SPEERS —

Being a "new boy" in any class is never easy, and Denes Adrigan's Manly youngsters must have taken the field at Wentworth Park on Sunday with more than a little trepidation.

Not only were they making their debut in First Division, but they had an added burden to shoulder — the task of proving that their record rise from the Inter-Suburban ranks was no fluke.

As things eventuated, a lot of their worries proved groundless.

Faced with an out-of-touch Canterbury, Manly's entry to the "big time" was relatively painless.

In the dressing room after the match, the feeling was one of relief, tempered with the realisation that tougher times are to come.

"It wasn't as tough as I thought it might be," said clever inside forward, Jimmy Ridding, quaffing orange juice.

Ridding (21) is an Englishman whose tanned countenance and blonde hair belie his country of birth.

Before coming to Australia two years ago, he played as an amateur in non-League soccer in the London area.

"Probably the biggest difference between playing in Second and First Division soccer, I think, is the way the players in the top grade 'lay off' in the tackle," he said.

"In Second Division once you beat a man the way is generally open to goal.

"But the Canterbury players, and I suppose this is general right through the other clubs, would not be drawn into the tackle unless they were certain they could take the ball.

"It makes it that much harder to create chances," Ridding said.

Colin Waller, Manly's lightweight winger, thought differently.

Waller, who is awaiting call-up for national service training, said: "I don't believe the players lay off all that much.

"At least, the bloke marking me had no such idea. Everywhere I went he seemed to be on top of me.

"I would say, if anything,

the marking is much tighter than in Second Division."

Neil Campbell, 19, who impressed with his coolness at centre half, had this to say of his "blooding" in First Division soccer:

"It's difficult to give any opinion on the relative standards of the two divisions.

"I was too busy to give it much thought on the field.

"But I think it's fair to say that you are made to think what you are doing more against these better players.

"It is very easy to be drawn out of position, and there's little chance to recover once that happens," he said.

Goalkeeper Jan Tuinman, 22, one of the busiest Manly players during the first nervous 20 minutes of play, said he believed the standard of shooting of the Canterbury players "about the same as in Second Division."

LITTLE GERMAN IN BIG DEMAND

Dettmar Cramer, the small, balding German coach coming to Australia next month for a short visit is quite a remarkable character.

Only last month he was offered the post to become Austria's national team boss; it took Cramer 24 hours to turn it down.

"I couldn't work in Austria where, at the moment, a serious rift exists between Vienna and the provinces," he said.

Cramer, now on the payroll of FIFA, has been touring Asian countries for over a year, spending a month in each country, coaching national, youth and schoolboy teams and giving instructions to coaches and trainers.

Never an outstanding player himself — not even a German international — Cramer helped Sepp Herberger in 1954 to prepare the West German team for the World Cup — which they won.

"By that I mean the power of shooting," he said, "though the type of shot is different.

"Today, I found the shots were coming more straight than I'm used to. In Second Division, the ball seems to turn more."

Of his vain attempt to save the penalty kick taken by Canterbury veteran, Herbert Ninaus, Tuinman said: "I reckon I was a bit unlucky not to have touched it around the post.

"I dummied to the right to make him shoot left, and it worked.

"But I was just too slow in diving," he said.

The last word from coach Adrigan: "We played fairly well considering it was our first game in First Division.

"The boys were very nervous in the first half, but we finished a lot stronger than Canterbury.

"We were much the fitter of the two teams."

Precisely a week has elapsed since we printed a story pointing out that the ASF Executive's decision to ignore the Merdeka Tournament was based on complete lack of knowledge about the feelings of clubs.

Since then neither the ASF Executive nor the delegates involved cared to make any denial.

Hence we assume that our story was correct and the parties concerned made a very costly and very serious blunder — obviously without anybody caring.

JAPAN CAN BE STUDIED

It's absolutely essential that we acquaint ourselves fully with Japanese soccer before our World Cup elimination games.

We won't be left in the dark where South Korea is concerned as coach Joe Vlasits — recently reappointed national team coach — had plenty of opportunity to watch the South Koreans in action in Saigon last year.

Japan, however, is an unknown quantity.

Rated as one of Asia's top teams, we can't afford to meet them "blind".

It is imperative the Australian Federation send coach Vlasits on a "spying" mission.

And what a better place to do this than at Mexico City in October where Japan will play a minimum of three Olympic matches.

Sending the national coach to observe a future opponent is a universal practice overseas, and one we will have to adopt if we don't want to be caught by Japan as we were by North Korea in 1965.

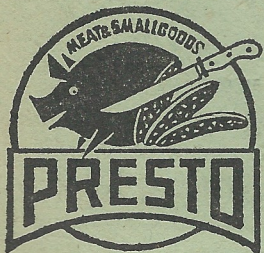
Football sell well

The NSW Amateur Association is certain to approve of a slightly smaller football than the local regulations allow, for the coming year.

An imported football is available in large quantities, and in view of the price of many makes, these types of balls seem certain to win general acceptance.

The popularity of soccer can be seen from the figures for sale of regulation leather and plastic practice footballs, which are reaching an all-time high in both types. K.G.

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PRAQUE HIT TRAIL OF COME-BACK

Pan Hellenic consolidated their position at the top of Group "B" with another dashing win last weekend.

St. George-Budapest still retain second place in the group, Hakoah having only defeated South Coast 2-0 last Friday.

In Group "A" APIA suffered a set-back when

beaten by Prague, now back in the race for top spot in a group likely to be dominated by the Croatia-Prague-APIA trio.

Last weekend's reviews:

Last Friday:

Hellenic again!

Firing on all cylinders, Pan Hellenic confirmed their growing ambition with another impressive win at the Showground.

In the late match, Hakoah did not win as comfortably as the score indicates, and were extended to beat a much stronger than anticipated South Coast.

The mere 2,474 spectators who turned up in the wind and drizzle were not rewarded with unforgettable football.

Pan Hellenic v. Polonia 3-0

Pan Hellenic took charge from the kick-off with lightning-fast raids, and within five minutes were one-up through Brian Smith.

Superior speed and quick interchanging gave Pan Hellenic a big edge over their opponents, but Polonia showed improvement on their last outing against St. George.

Especially in the first half, they did have their chances, but this 1968 version Pan Hellenic have no glaring weaknesses and shine equally in defence and attack.

The match was all over in 23 minutes after Karyannis, always the supreme — if erratic — opportunist gave Pan Hellenic an unassailable 2-0 lead.

If Pan Hellenic did not increase their lead and run out bigger winners, Polonia can thank their defence in which Dzialach, at centre-half, made a big difference.

Drewniak showed that he is still Polonia's top 'keeper despite a long lay-off; though obviously lacking match practice, he pulled off a few inspiring saves when the Pan Hellenic forwards had their arms raised already in triumph.

The first half easily produced the most entertaining soccer of the night.

The second half was not quite so pleasing as play deteriorated in the rain and increasingly slippery conditions, and a certain amount of "needle" crept into the play.

With the result already beyond doubt, and Polonia weakening badly in stamina, Laraman rocketed a cannon-ball shot past the startled Drewniak to give Pan Hellenic a totally deserved 3-0 win.

Westwater, as always, Mallard, Smith and Laraman, whose dramatic improvement continues to surprise pleasantly, stood out in a fit, purposeful and entertaining all-action Pan Hellenic XI.

Drewniak, Skiba and Dzialach were the best for the convalescent Polonia.

Pan Hellenic: Clarke; Johnston, Hignett; Westwater, Mallard, Omeros; Smith, Karyannis, McCulloch, Laraman, Blitz. Coach: W. Vrolyks.

Polonia: Drewniak; Addison, Skiba; Baker, Dzialach, Komoder; Hall, Minol, Kulak, Krawiarz, Oliver (Filok). Coach: G. Azzopardi.

Scorers: Smith 5 min., Karyannis 23 min., Laraman 45 min.

Referee: N. Jones.

— Lou Gautier

Hakoah v. SCU 2-0

South Coast returned to Woonona their head held high after a most creditable performance.

The expected Hakoah cake-walk never eventuated and the provincials stayed very much in the match throughout.

United's energy and stamina surprised, and although they lacked star players, their young forwards gave the Hakoah defence many an uncomfortable moment.

There was, however, never any real doubt Hakoah would win.

But they could have gone about it in a more attractive and cohesive fashion.

Hakoah didn't reproduce their displays against APIA and Newcastle Austral because their forwards played as individuals and rarely combined effectively.

On the rare occasions they did combine well, they were menacing.

Hakoah's first goal was the result of such teamwork, four players moving beautifully together before Barnett's final pass was slammed home by Baartz.

But this was very much the exception rather than the rule.

Otherwise, Hakoah's attack was ragged and disjointed, with Barnett the chief culprit.

The former South Coast coach played a shocker, did nothing right all night apart from the pass which

netted the first goal, and teamed up poorly with inside-man Baartz.

It was again left to Hakoah's splendid defence, where Marnoch and young Gardiner — an exciting new talent — were particularly outstanding, to preserve victory.

A good indication of South Coast's exuberance was that Fuzes was actually busier than his counterpart, Ramage.

The Australian international is decidedly on the come-back trail: he saved a couple of Tolson scorches, and was safe and authoritative throughout.

The undoubted highlight of the game was Yaager's superb solo goal in the 57th minute.

He gathered the ball mid-field, accepted a return pass from Baartz and deli-

cately placed the ball into the top left hand corner over Ramage's head.

Fuzes, Marnoch, Gardiner, and to a lesser degree Edmunds, Yaager and Stewart, starred for the winners.

For the gallant losers, Tolson, Davies and Carr gave sterling performances.

Hakoah: Fuzes; Stewart, Hillsdon; Gardiner, Marnoch, Yaager; Edmunds, Atoua, Barnett, Baartz, Jones. Coach: D. Holden.

SCU: Ramage; Ringland, Akers; Shepperd, Carr, Davies; Kerr, Tolson, Harrison, Freeme, Tolhurst. Coach: J. Harris.

Scorers: Baartz 5 min., Yaager 57 min.

Referee: K. Lockrey.

Crowd: 2,474 (double-header).

— Lou Gautier

Last Sunday:

Classy Prague

A fair split of the points in the first match and an upset in the second was Sunday's fare.

The Manly v. Canterbury clash was, to put it very gently, rather sub-standard; only the great enthusiasm of the young seaiders can be truthfully praised.

In the second match — three classes above the first — Prague played well enough to beat APIA who keep confirming the view that their heyday is behind them.

Manly v. Canterbury 2-2

Manly's tyros, after some early uncertainty, found their debut in First Division neither as difficult, or testing, as they might reasonably have expected.

Twice trailing by the odd goal, they showed plenty of "heart" to snatch a draw eight minutes from time.

But, as a guide to the seaiders' prospects of staying in the upper echelon, the match was a failure.

Generally, the football was poor, particularly in the first half when any self-respecting bookmaker would have been prepared to lay long odds about either side scoring.

Canterbury, fielding a line-up not greatly different to last year's, showed little guile in the first half when Manly's players were visibly suffering from "butterflies."

Ninaus, though overweight, was their only dangerous forward, with newcomer Scott conspicuous only by his wont to "lose" himself for long periods. He was replaced at half time by fellow countryman, Hood.

Hood's typically aggressive style paid dividends only six minutes after resuming.

He beat at least four Manly defenders, cheekily enticed Tuinman off his line, and scored with non-chalant ease.

(Canterbury are reported to be interested in offers by Melita Eagles for Hood. On Sunday's form, they would do well to reconsider, for the former Hakoah player seems to be their only forward of real class).

Manly, to their credit, did not cry enough at Hood's goal, and drew level eight minutes later through inside-forward Archie Harris.

They were again behind when Ninaus converted a penalty in the 56th minute, but were able to share the points through Jones'

equalising goal six minutes later.

Individually, Manly have three or four fine prospects, of whom the most outstanding seems to be fair-haired inside-forward, Jimmy Ridding, an Englishman.

Ridding, 21, came on to replace Jagger at half time and his ball control and play "off the ball" were a big factor in Manly's comeback.

Colin Waller, slimly built and also a clever ball player showed promise, as did tall goalkeeper, Jan Tuinman.

The irrepressible Hood, in the forwards, and right-back Mucillo, were Canterbury's most able servants.

Manly: Tuinman; McGrath, Brooks, Verrills, Campbell, Freeman, R. Jones, Harris, G. Jones, Jagger (Ridding), Waller.

Canterbury: Demopoulous; Mucillo, Drikos, Hardie, Whitehead, Romanos, Kauz, Galbraith, Scott (Hood), Ninaus, Paxinos.

Scorers: Hood 41 min., Ninaus 56 min. for Canterbury; Harris 49 min., R. Jones 56 min. for Manly.

Referee: J. Henkelman.

— Alan Speers

Prague v. APIA 2-1

Resurrections have always held great fascination for man and football fans are no exceptions.

Prague's anticipated come-back this year got off to a remarkable start when, fighting with 10 men for almost a third of the match, they upset APIA, the fading champions.

They not only upset them but, in the first half, handed out a formidable lesson in modern, efficient and attractive football.

After losing Molnar with suspected broken ribs, Prague fell back and played a predictable holding game, rather easily frustrating APIA's frantic though haphazard attempts to pull the match out of the fire.

Prague could be one of the most attractive teams to watch this year.

What does intrigue me though, is why so many people refer to them as "exciting kids"; surely Moulson, Blanco, Gauto, Scheinflug, Molnar and Hoggart have shed their baby teeth?

In fact, they have just as many talented and experienced players in their midst as any other team; if their youngsters also rise to the occasion, they will have something to shout about.

APIA were trying hard as hell and got nowhere. They might have settled the dispute with their players but they certainly have not yet settled what type of game they should play.

Despite the signing of Keddie and the presence of

the two young hopefuls, Campbell and McKinnon, they appear to have grave wing problems while Giacometti's activities are reserved purely for a few dead-ball kicks.

Even the once solid APIA defence seems to be on the decline; Bottalico is slowing down, Hughes is far too adventurous and Van Blerk will give away far too many free-kicks and penalties to be regarded as even a stop-gap stopper.

Actually, in this match one always had the feeling that Prague will keep playing football while APIA will run and run and run without any tangible success.

Despite their big territorial advantage in the second half, APIA were lucky not to lose 4-1 when, towards the end, two speedy Prague counter-punches were fouled up by the inexperienced Manuel.

Prague: King; Harcombe, Blacker, Rootsey, Moulson; Blanco (Thorn), Scheinflug; Gauto, Manuel, Molnar, Hoggart.

APIA: Taylor; Nuttall, Van Blerk, Bottalico, Acklerley; Hughes, Blue; Keddie, Campana (Campbell), Giacometti, McKinnon.

Scorers: Campana 8 min., Scheinflug 20 min. (pen.), Gauto 25 min.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 4,100 (double-header).

— Paul Dean

AMPOL TABLES GROUP "A"

APIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
APIA	2	1	—	1	3	2	15
Prague	2	1	—	1	2	2	14
Croatia	1	1	—	—	1	—	13
Canterbury	1	—	1	—	2	2	7
Manly	1	—	1	—	2	2	7
Melita E.	1	—	1	—	2	—	—

GROUP "B"

P. Hellenic	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
P. Hellenic	2	2	—	—	7	—	31
St. George	1	1	—	—	3	—	15
Hakoah	1	1	—	—	2	—	14
SCU	1	—	1	—	2	—	—
Yugal	1	—	1	—	4	—	—
Polonia	2	—	2	—	6	—	—

RESULTS TABLES

GROUP "A"	APIA	Canterbury	Croatia	Manly	Prague	Melita Eagles
APIA	●				1-2	2-0
Canterbury		●		2-2		
Croatia			●		1-0	
Manly		2-2		●		
Prague	2-1		0-1		●	
Melita Eagles	0-2					●

GROUP "B"	Hakoah	Pan Hellenic	Polonia	St. George	South Coast	Yugal
Hakoah	●				2-0	
Pan Hellenic		●	3-0			4-0
Polonia		0-3	●	0-3		
St. George-B.pest			3-0	●		
South Coast	0-2				●	
Yugal		0-4				●

SYDNEY PROGRAM

THIS WEEKEND

AMPOL CUP

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Manly v. Melita Eagles — Showground, 7.30 p.m.
Canterbury v. Croatia — Showground, 8.55 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

South Coast v. Yugal — Wentworth Park, 2.15 p.m.
Hakoah v. St. George — Wentworth Park, 3.35 p.m.

NEXT WEEKEND

AMPOL CUP

Friday, February 16

Polonia v. Yugal — Showground, 7.30 p.m.
Pan Hellenic v. South Coast United — Showground, 8.55 p.m.

Sunday, February 18

APIA v. Manly — Wentworth Park, 2.15 p.m.
Prague v. Melita Eagles — Wentworth Park, 3.35 p.m.

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DRAW LIKELY IN CLASH BETWEEN OLD RIVALS

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Croatia have a second to none chance of topping Group "A" after this weekend's Ampol Cup round.

A second consecutive win would put them way out in front of APIA, but Canterbury and Manly also have a chance to sneak into first place if they win their matches.

On Sunday, the eagerly awaited Hakoah-St. George clash will have a vital bearing on the semifinal prospects of both teams.

Our previews:

Manly v. Melita Eagles

Against Melita's experienced, solid defence, whose average age is some seven or eight years older, Manly's forwards will need more punch than last week against Canterbury.



FRED FALZON (M. Eagles)

Though they kicked off in First Division with a draw, Manly clearly suffered from jitters last weekend.

Their inexperienced players will have to prove this week that last Sunday's numerous lapses were the result of first match nerves and not elementary errors which will prove fatal in the tough grind of First Division football.

Melita Eagles, no great shakes themselves, will certainly have an easier match than against APIA, but they can't take any opponent for granted with the weak set of forwards at their disposal.

Melita are hopeful of fielding New Zealanders Nemet and Kovacs on Friday night.

They certainly could do with them, because the forward-line they fielded against APIA couldn't fight its way out of a paper bag.

The Manly defence, despite the promise shown by goalie Tuinman and stopper Campbell, will be easier to pierce.

Melita Eagles' defence should be able to curb the young and still largely immature Manly forwards, whose best player on last week's display appears to be Ridding.

Manly won't be presented with so many golden chances this week, and we would be surprised if they score more than once — if that.

As for the Eagles, they, too, will have to work hard for any goals which may come their way.

Melita Eagles' greater experience in defence should enable them to notch their first win of the series, but it mightn't be a walk-over.

Croatia v. Canterbury

Croatia's prospects of winning two matches in a row are excellent, despite the fact that they will again be forced to field a depleted

team, without the Cush brothers and Reynolds.

Canterbury will find the going tough, against any opponent, until they are reinforced.

Since their Greek newcomers won't be here for this match, Croatia should have a decided edge, especially in defence.

Croatia's great strength is their defence, which invariably plays the major part in all their victories.

It takes a much more versatile and classy set of forwards than the one now at the Berries' disposal to make any sort of an impression on the likes of Corry, Lincoln, Shepherd and Sloan.

Canterbury, against Manly, were even shakier in defence than in attack.

The loss of Sambrook has weakened their rearguard, which clearly cost them a win last Sunday.

Drikos, Whitehead and Hardie were out of touch against Manly, and the whole team in general played without the spirit and zest which made them such a force midway through last year's competition.

Croatia, even allowing for their amputated forward-line, which will again rely on many youngsters, should win, but but we would be surprised if too many goals were scored.

South Coast v. Yugal

One match down already, a win is essential if Yugal and South Coast want to keep their slim Australia Cup qualifying chances alive.

Contrary to expectations, South Coast fared much better than Yugal in their opening match.

This, however, does not necessarily point to a provincial victory on Sunday because Yugal always seem to have South Coast's measure when they meet in Sydney.

The match will mark Jim Kelly's return as United coach, but he won't play.

South Coast's speed and enthusiasm will create many problems for their slower opponents.

Yugal will have to give Alagich plenty of the ball: he is their main hope for goals against the United speed merchants.

This young South Coast team has potential, especially midfield where young Davies has definite star quality.

Tolson, in attack, will carry South Coast's hopes, and in this respect his clash with Rafanelli, Yugal's most valuable defender, will be crucial.

The return of representative winger, Dennis Paterson, and the debut of Englishman, Alston, will bolster the visitors' attack, and all round South Coast, at this stage at least, seem to have more possibilities than Yugal.

Form points to a South Coast victory, unless Yugal can patch up the gaping holes in defence which caused their downfall against Pan Hellenic.

In attack, too, they are worse off than their opponents.

Though Yugal will certainly improve as the season progresses, we prefer the more dynamic South Coast's chances on Sunday.

Hakoah v. St. George

This clash — a repeat of last year's final — could easily be the best match of the series so far.

The two teams are serious contenders for high honors, both in the Ampol Cup and the subsequent competition.



B. TAYLOR (St. George)

Hakoah and Saints could have been more impressive in winning their first round matches, but Hakoah encountered stronger resistance from South Coast than St. George did from Polonia a fortnight ago.

The outcome of Sunday's late game is hard to predict because St. George will be strengthened by the return of Warren and Cliss.

Depending on Watkiss' fitness, Hakoah could field a powerful forward-line, spearheaded by the formidable inside-trio of Watkiss, Barnett and Baartz.

In defence, Hakoah have a distinct edge.

Saints' attack will have to be near its best to gain the upper hand against the best First Division defence in Sydney at the moment.

Bright football

Hakoah have probably less problems than any other side and are in the lucky position of having several good reserves, causing them only the enviable headache of whom to omit from their line-up.

For Saints, a lot will hinge on Warren's form.

The Australian skipper can't be expected to be back at his very best in his first match of the season, but if he's only close to his 1967 form, St. George will pose a formidable threat in attack with Schauman, Cliss and Fernandez backing him up.

Hakoah-St. George clashes in the past have usually been grim, defensive battles, but on Sunday with the abundance of classy forwards on display, we wouldn't be surprised if bright, attacking football were the order of the day.

A draw, or a narrow Hakoah victory is the likely result.

PROBABLE TEAMS

MELITA EAGLES v. MANLY

EATON	1	TUINMAN
HUNTER	2	MCGRATH
HEWLETT	3	BROOKS
FALZON	4	VERRILLS
CILIA	5	CAMPBELL
DE BRUIN	6	FREEMAN
NEMET	7	R. JONES
PRICE	8	HARRIS
AZZOPARDI	9	G. JONES
WOLLOWSZCZYKOW	10	RIDDING
KOVACS	11	WALLER
Referee:	A.R.	BROWN.

CANTERBURY v. CROATIA

DEMOPOULOS	1	CORRY
MUCILLO	2	LINCOLN
DRIKOS	3	SLOAN
HARDIE	4	CURRY
WHITEHEAD	5	SHEPHERD
ROMANOS	6	SNEDDEN
KAUZ	7	BARBOUTIS
GALBRAITH	8	J. YAAGER
SCOTT	9	BRIAN
NINAUS	10	GILES
PAXINOS	11	FRAKES
Referee:	M.	BUCHANAN

SOUTH COAST v. YUGAL

RAMAGE	1	PETROU
RINGLAND	2	NACINOVIC
AKERS	3	CRNICH
HARRISON	4	LANG
CARR	5	BANICEVIC
DAVIES	6	RAFANELI
KERR	7	J. ALAGICH
TOLSON	8	BOBIC
ALSTON	9	HALPIN
FREEME	10	EDWARDS
PATERSON	11	VESICH
Referee:	L.	RAE.

HAKOAH v. ST. GEORGE

FUZES	1	HAFFEY
STEWART	2	SANDELL
SUTHERLAND	3	HILLARY
GARDINER	4	SCHAEFER
MARNOCH	5	TAYLOR
YAAGER	6	ZUCKERMAN
EDMUNDS	7	BURTON
BARNETT	8	CLISS
WATKISS	9	WARREN
BAARTZ	10	FERNANDEZ
JONES	11	SCHAUMAN
Referee:	H.	PARSONS.



Prague forward Hoggart and APIA fullback Nuttall in a scene from last Sunday's match

Coaches want prompt action

The directors of coaching from each State and the executive of the Australian Coaches Federation met in Sydney during the Australia Day weekend to draw up their plans for 1968.

The following decisions were made:

● A uniform coaching curriculum to be produced on preliminary and advanced levels.

● To recommend to the Australian Federation that the first senior coaching course ever held in Australia be staged in Sydney and Newcastle.

● To ask the ASF to reconsider their decision not to participate in the Merdeka Tournament.

The coaches feel that the tournament would provide invaluable experience for Australia's elite before the World Cup elimination games and could serve as Australia's launching pad into the international orbit.

● Details for the proposed visit of top FIFA coach, German-born Dettmar Cramer, expected on March 1, were also completed.

Cramer will start his tour in Perth where he will spend four days.

He will then move on to Adelaide for another four days, then spend two days in Tasmania, five in Melbourne, two in Canberra, five in Sydney and four in Newcastle before winding up his visit with a four-day sojourn in Brisbane.

The director of coaching in each State will act as liaison officer during Cramer's visit.

● The Coaches Federation has also made provisions concerning the preparation of Australian national teams.

They will recommend to the ASF Annual General Meeting later this month that "A" team members assemble for a three-day period every month in Sydney or Melbourne.

For the Australian under-23 squad, a three-day get-together every two months in Melbourne and Sydney has been recommended.

Under-23 hopefuls from the western States would assemble in Melbourne, eastern players in Sydney.

As for the under-18 team, the national junior side, more international contacts are being sought, starting with regular fixtures against South Pacific neighbors, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea and Tahiti.

Whether the Australian Coaches Federation will be able to get their views across and spur the Australian Federation into much-delayed action remains to be seen.

But by outlining their views and bringing forward sensible recommendations, which should have emanated in the first place from the ASF, they have justified their existence as a national body, deserving of more recognition and co-operation.

— Lou Gautier

Tony must have chance

The Australian Soccer Federation must, without any delay, cable FIFA in Zurich, nominating Tony Boskovic for the 1970 World Cup finals.

Countries that wish to nominate referees will be named at a meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, on March 1 and 2.

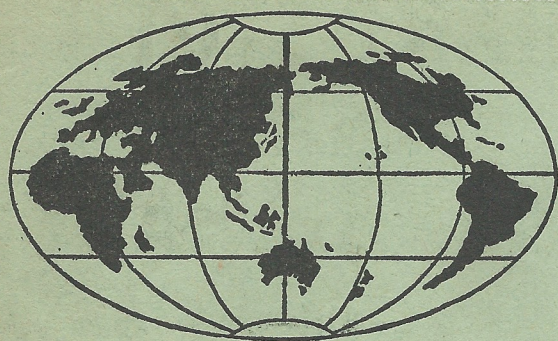
It is useless for the ASF to modestly sit back and wait until Boskovic is invited — he must be nominated.

He is, by all standards, the first world class referee Australia has ever had and must be given a chance to further improve.

Of the numerous referees I saw at the 1966 World Cup, only the Italian Lo-Bello impressed me as one of great class.

As for some of the other "celebrated" international referees, including Zsolt, Kreitlein and the Swiss Dienst who controlled the final (three dubious goals out of six!), the less said the better.

— Paul Dean



ROUND THE WORLD

Fair Cities' Cup draw

This is the draw for the quarterfinals of the Fair Cities Cup: Glasgow Rangers v. Leeds; Dundee v. FC Zurich or Sporting Lisbon; Ferencvaros v. Atletico Bilbao; Bologna v. Vojvodina or Goztepe Izmir (Turkey). Matches must be completed by April 3.

New rules experiment

A tournament in Buenos Aires with startling, experimental rules, starts this week between Argentino Juniors, Tigre, Atlanta and Lanus. There will be no off-side, throw-ins will be replaced by free-kicks from the touchline, corners will be booted from three different spots, the "wall" will be abolished on direct free-kicks within goal range and players will be sidelined for five minutes, like in ice-hockey, for a variety of infringements.

North American Soccer League

The North American Soccer League — the name given to the merger of the warring factions in the USA after their reconciliation on December 16 — kicks off on March 31. Twenty teams will take part in the competition, including three from Canada. They will be split into two sections — east and west. The two competitions end on September 28. The section winners will play-off for the first All-American club title.

British "hobbyhorses"

Many British pros are also successful businessmen off the field. Here are some of the better known players' occupations: George Best owns two boutiques, Bobby Moore is a director of three sporting goods firms, Geoff Hurst is a PR for a cufflink and tie clip manufacturer, Greaves manages a packing factory and Alan Ball owns a garage. Among the others, Jackie Charlton owns a menswear store, Graham Leggatt, the Birmingham centre-forward, is a male model, Manchester City's ace goalscorer, Francis Lee, runs an automatic laundrymat and Everton's Mike Bailey is a successful restaurateur.

Djalma Santos retires

Brazilian Djalma Santos, one of the world's greatest fullbacks, has officially hung up his boots. Santos has only played for two clubs throughout his career — Portuguesa and Palmeiras, both of Sao Paulo — with which he appeared 1,206 times. Djalma Santos won two World Cups (1958 and 1962) and was a member of the 1950 Brazilian team which came second to Uruguay. He played 98 times for his country, but a club championship title always evaded him. Santos has accepted an appointment to coach Palmeiras' juniors.



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2KY ITALIAN MELODIES 2KY
Every Thursday 6.15 p.m.

The English FA have started an inquiry into the affairs of Fourth Division Port Vale, Stanley Matthews' club. Club officials are alleged to have made under-the-table payments to amateur players on their books and offered illegal inducements to other amateurs from neighboring non-league clubs, including school-boys.

● Indoor, five-a-side soccer is very popular in Austria. This weekend MTK-Budapest, Spartak Trnava, Wacker and FK Austria will take part in a tournament at the Vienna Sports Palace.

● Boca Juniors president, Armando, having failed in his Lisbon mission to sign Simoes, the Benfica winger, is now visiting Glasgow in a bid to buy Celtic's John Murdoch. To recoup some of the transfer fee Boca would like to sell Rattin to a West German club.

● Sparta Prague will inaugurate their new 40,000-capacity stadium on October 9 with the Czechoslovakia v. West Germany international.

● The Yanks aren't the only North Americans spending big money. Kubala joined a Toronto club last week, 10 days after fellow-Hungarian Puskas took over as Vancouver coach. Puskas, incidentally, is on a three-year guarantee of \$63,000.

● The English FA has lifted the suspension on players who joined the former breakaway American Professional League following the amalgamation of the two American leagues.

● Manchester United's average home attendance so far this season is 55,694 spectators. Only one club ever did better in Britain: Newcastle United. In 1948 their average for the entire season was 56,473.

● Some first round South American Champions' Cup results: Nacional Montevideo v. Independiente Buenos Aires 3-0, Sporting Cristal (Peru) v. Wilsterman (Bolivia) 1-0, Universitario (Peru) v. Always Ready (Bolivia) 3-0; Deportivo Galicia (Venezuela) v. Deportivo Portugues (Venezuela) 2-0.

● France beat England 1-0 in a junior international in Paris last week. England were runners-up in the 1967 European Championship and France equal third.

● Belgium's multi-capped international, Jurion, and his club, Anderlecht, have settled their dispute. Jurion will re-sign next season instead of accepting a coaching position in Luxembourg.

● Peter Meyer, Borussia Moenchengladbach's ace goalscorer, may not play again this season. Playing in an exhibition match at Duisburg, he fractured his right leg. Meyer was leading the Bundesliga goalscoring list before his injury.

● Belgium beat Israel 2-0 at Tel Aviv in front of 12,000 spectators. The Israelis will meet Sweden twice at home in the next fortnight, then challenge North Korea and Burma for an Olympic berth.

● Santiago Bernabeu, the president of Real Madrid, miraculously escaped injury when his car collided head-on with a truck outside Alicante. The 74-year-old Bernabeu didn't even suffer a scratch.

● Coluna, Benfica's famous international has been suspended for six matches for striking Sporting's Figueroa in the recent Lisbon derby.

● How the mighty have fallen! Garrincha, once the toast of the soccer world is now reduced to tour isolated Brazilian country towns with a Second Division Rio team to make a living. He is paid \$40 a match as spectators are still attracted by his name though he is only a shadow of his former self.

● Italy and Bulgaria can't agree on their European Championship quarterfinal dates. The Italians don't want to play on April 28 and May 12. They want earlier dates. The UEFA will adjudicate.

● The Bulgarians will prepare for their Italian clashes by touring North Africa for matches in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

● France and Yugoslavia, on the other hand, agreed on their match dates within 24 hours of the draw. The first match will be played at Marseilles on April 6, the return in Belgrade on the 23rd.

● Brazil's new "wonder teams," Cruzeiro and Atletico Belo Horizonte, are playing a two-match tie to determine the Minas Gerais champion. Both teams finished level on points, but goal-average is not taken into account in Brazil. Cruzeiro won the first leg 3-1.

● Alfredo Foni and the Swiss national team may soon go their separate ways. The Italian coach is likely to be replaced by Erwin Ballabio, the former goalkeeper, before the end of the month. Foni clashed repeatedly with Swiss officials on technical and tactical points.

● The recent Espanol v. Barcelona Catalan derby attracted the largest crowd seen at a club match in Barcelona since the Barcelona-Real Madrid European Cup semifinal in 1961. A record 101,000 spectators saw Espanol win 1-0.

● Eintracht Braunschweig, the German champions, defeated Juventus 3-2 in their first European Cup quarterfinal leg at Braunschweig last Wednesday week.

● Thailand qualified for the final Olympic tournament in Mexico in October. They defeated Irak and Indonesia in a qualifying tournament in Bangkok last month.

They see Red

Ever heard of Volga, Baltic Revolutionaries, Automobilists, Metallurgy, Textiles, Energetik, Avantgarde, Kolchos Tractors, Political Service, Kirovgrad Leninists? These are some of the names of the clubs in the 1968-69 Russian Second Division. Not very original, perhaps, but straight down the Party line...

France may pull out

France may withdraw from the Olympics. A Government edict last week compelled the basketball team to withdraw from the qualifying matches because of their mediocre results in 1967. The axe is almost certain to fall on the soccer team next though France are favored to beat Austria and qualify for the finals. According to the French Government, which controls all sport, the French amateurs would only be courting disaster if they played against some of the "shamateurs" from behind the Iron Curtain.

Yanks want more

Those insatiable Americans are at it again. They are now after Soskic, the brilliant Yugoslav goalie now with FC Koln, Di Stefano and Luis Carniglia, the former Bologna coach. Soskic is the only one who may be lured by the Yankee dollar. An unnamed US club is also reported to have offered Herrera a fortune to quit Inter Milan.

SCOREBOARD

FRANCE: Lens v. Red Star 2-4; Nantes v. Bordeaux 1-1; Angers v. Lille 1-3; Sedan v. Aix 3-0; Metz v. Ajaccio 3-0; Monaco v. Lyon 2-1; Marseille v. Rouen 2-2; Strasbourg v. Nice 0-0; St. Etienne v. Valenciennes 3-0; Sochaux v. Rennes 1-2.

GREECE: Olympiakos v. Pierikos 2-1; Panathinaikos v. Panelefsinaikos 3-1; AEK v. Panionios 1-1; Aris v. Panseiraikos 1-0; Ethnikos v. Olympiakos Cyprus 4-0; Egaleo v. PAOK 1-0; Apollon v. Heraklis 1-0; Prodeftiki v. Olympiakos Volos 0-1; Vyzas v. Verria 0-0.

HOLLAND: Go Ahead v. Telstar 3-1; ADO v. DOS 5-1; Fortuna v. Feyenoord 0-1; NAC v. Volendam 0-2; Ajax v. DWS 3-2; NEC v. Sittardia 2-2; Sparta v. MVV 2-0; Xerxes v. Twente 2-0; PSV v. GVAV 0-0.

ITALY: Atalanta v. Cagliari 2-1; Bologna v. Brescia 0-3; Vicenza v. Inter Milan 2-1; Mantova v. Sampdoria 0-1; AC Milan v. Napoli 2-1; Roma v. Spal 1-1; Torino v. Fiorentina 0-2; Varese v. Juventus 5-0.

PORTUGAL: Porto v. Belenenses 4-0; Guimaraes v. Benfica 0-4; Sporting Lisbon v. Leixoes 3-2; Academica v. Tirsense 4-1; Varzim v. Setubal 3-1; Sanjoanense v. CUF 2-0; Barreirense v. Braga 0-1.

SPAIN: Bilbao v. Pontevedra 1-1; Valencia v. Elche 1-1; Zaragoza v. Malaga 0-0; Betis v. Cordoba 1-0; Real Sociedad v. Sevilla 5-1; Espanol v. Real Madrid 0-4; Atletico Madrid v. Barcelona 0-1.

WEST GERMANY: Hannover 96 v. Karlsruhe 2-0; Werder Bremen v. Eintracht Brunswick 3-2; FC Kaiserslautern v. Borussia Moenchengladbach 0-1; MSV Duisburg v. Hamburg SV 1-2; FC Nuremberg v. Eintracht Frankfurt 0-2; Alemannia Aachen v. Borussia Neunkirchen 5-1; VfB Stuttgart v. Munchen 1860 2-1; Bayern Munchen v. Borussia Dortmund (cancelled); Schalke 04 v. FC Koln 1-1.

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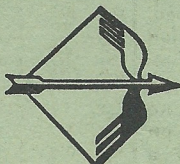
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DRAW ENOUGH TO GET HAKOAH INTO SEMIS

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

Hakoah, in their final qualifying game against George Cross, seem all set to join Slavia in the semifinal of the 1968 Ampol Cup.

With the best goal average in their group they need only a draw to lift them into the semifinals — and this is not beyond them.

In the other match of the night, Melbourne, now only playing out time in readiness for the new league season, could be hard pushed to hold JUST, whose chances of qualifying seem pretty dim.

The program is:
7.45 p.m.: George Cross v. Hakoah.

9.10 p.m. Melbourne v. JUST.

George Cross v. Hakoah

George Cross must win this tie convincingly to have even faint hopes of getting into the semifinals.

Unlucky in their last game when they lost both points to Juventus with a 1-0 defeat, the Cross with plenty of experience and talent in their ranks appear to be one of the teams heading for an improvement this year.

In defence, former West Australian player Neil Mor-

son is in tremendous form at left-back and his partner State League veteran Eddie Sacco is playing as well as ever.

Up front, right-winger Archie Campbell, back to his brilliant best after plenty of worries in the past 18 months with a recurring leg injury and new Spanish inside-forward Angelo Hernandez can inspire the attack to big things.

Hakoah, well placed, must put more fire into their forward play than they did against SM Hellas.

Just as well for Hakoah that Jim Armstrong, their ace striker and inside man is in peak form.

Hakoah's rearguard is steady, strong and reliable with Australian fullback, George Keith in dazzling form and his under-23 Australian wing-half partner David Baker well on the way to establishing himself as a first team regular with his consistent performances.

Unless both sides are forced into a series of tight spots and make defensive

errors, this could be a low scoring game. And once again, I figure that Hakoah will at least share the points.

Melbourne v. Footscray JUST

If only for the sake of prestige and their fans, Melbourne must pull up their socks and do something to eradicate their pointless total so far.

Of course, it is almost certain that Orie Abonyi after all the publicity which has surrounded him and his nightmare penalty misses against Slavia won't take long to recover his top form and come back with a bang.

But the other Melbourne forwards except Bob Con-

nelly seem jaded and out of form.

JUST are a better side than their points total indicates.

In defence they are quite formidable with Milanko Rusmir, David Fearn, Billy Rice, Bodgan, Zlati and Cedo Cirkovic all starting off well.

Like so many other sides, it's in attack JUST have their problems. They rely too much on Tony Hughes at centre-forward to swing the game their way.

JUST must register a clear cut and convincing win to keep their hopes alive. And with less problems at the moment and fewer players out of form I reckon JUST will in fact win.

Cook's tour of Melbourne

Top goalies may pay for lack of color

Despite the fact that the Federation recently sent out a circular to clubs drawing their attention to the dress and colors of goalkeepers, some clubs appear to have ignored the warning that goalies must wear colors which distinguish them from other players.

Last Friday, Willem Schroif of Slavia and Mike O'Hara of Hakoah flouted the ruling and could be up for a \$10 fine which is automatically imposed by the Federation on each occasion a report has been sent in by the referee.

McKay for Juventus?

With little or no hope of a reconciliation between club and player, it seems certain that Duncan McKay, the Croatia wing-half or fullback, will find a new club soon, probably in Melbourne.

The former Glasgow Celtic and Scottish international who is 29, is on Croatia's open-to-transfer list and the first move may be made by Juventus who are sorely in need of an experienced defender to compensate for the loss of George Scott.

I believe McKay has been training with Juventus, so it seems a natural move that they may be the first to bid for his transfer.

Croatia have confirmed McKay is for sale and the parting of the ways this time is inevitable.

Club didn't know

Last Friday night I quizzed popular JUST secretary, Piko Pavlovic on the whereabouts of his club's former goalie, Marko Fode who had gone to Europe on his honeymoon early last season and was given his share of the club's bonus payments with a wedding present into the bargain.

The Footscray club had some idea he was returning to Australia although the player had never, during his extended trip abroad, sent any communication whatsoever.

So imagine the surprise when Piko said he had no definite information on Fode's return and only a few minutes later was told by a reporter colleague of mine that the goalie was in

fact also at Olympic Park and watching the Ampol Cup matches.

Once he recovered from the shock and had met Fode, the JUST official gave no definite statement on the future of Fode.

But he did casually say he wouldn't be surprised if the 'keeper tabled an official transfer request and my feeling is the Footscray club will allow him to move to another club.

It could be Fode won't have long to wait. The same night I saw him in discussion with a leading

official of South Melbourne Hellas who have been angling after another 'keeper.

By a coincidence, the man in possession in goal for Hellas is Heinz Wenzl the former Hakoah (Sydney) and NSW 'keeper who joined the Greek club after he had a spell with Footscray JUST.

The 25-year-old Fode, who is a Yugoslav and product of the JUST juniors, jumped to fame five years ago when he took over from Steve Jankovic in the Ampol night soccer. He has played for Victoria.

Ottie stays at a price

Weeks of controversy over the future of Attila Abonyi, the Melbourne and Australia inside forward have ended at long last when the young player re-signed for Melbourne HSC — at greatly improved terms.

It's great news for both Melbourne and Victorian soccer that the 22-year-old Hungarian-born star has effected a complete reconciliation with his club who have "nursed" him along since a boy and gambled heavily by introducing him into their first team at the tender age of 15.

Of course, Abonyi responded now and Melbourne have had a loyal and productive forward who although still in his early twenties has already given the club nearly seven years' first team service.

The great pity about the whole Abonyi affair is the adverse publicity which has surrounded the player, Melbourne, and in particular St. George-Budapest who were named as the club he would most likely have joined had he been granted his original request for a move and transfer.

However, it seems most unlikely that the long est-

GIANT SCOT TO CARRY LION'S SHARE

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

USC Lion will pin their goalscoring hopes on giant Scot, Ian Monan, when they oppose Juventus in tonight's (Friday, February 9) early Ampol Cup game at Hindmarsh.

Monan rejoined his former Adelaide club following a spell with Melbourne Hakoah.

USC Lion officials were shocked by the size of the transfer fee they had to pay to secure Monan.

The figure was far in advance of that paid by Hakoah when the centre forward switched to Victoria.

He was SA's leading goalscorer in 1965 when Lion won the First Division championship.

Monan had a quiet re-entry into Adelaide soccer when Lion defeated Enfield-Victoria

2-1 in a match played in near century heat.

The win was Lion's first for the season but it sounded a warning to others that new coach Bill Higgins has moulded his side into a vastly improved unit from last year.

Lion's 1-1 draw against Croatia was also full of merit in their opening game.

Juventus jumped a stiff hurdle when they defeated Polonia 1-0 last week.

The first half provided sparkling soccer, the equal of last year's memorable Ampol Cup final and replay.

The second term, however, was an anti-climax with both sides failing to keep the ball on the ground.

Juventus won despite the absence of Steve Herczeg, a goal menacing striker they will need if they are to topple Lion.

The Ampol Cup holders have placed Charlie Horvath on their transfer list and used Luigi Fassina as their first string goalkeeper in their two outings to date.

Juventus reserve 'keeper for both games was Sam Tarascio, a recent signing who had three seasons with Melbourne Hakoah, one season with George Cross and had represented Victoria in an under-16 team.

Lion's new method, inspired by "professor" Higgins, should push Juventus to the limit.

Much will depend on the outcome of the goalmouth clash between Ian Monan and Nilo Rusalen as the Juventus stopper strives to atone for his lack of inches with his remarkable leaping powers.

I expect Juventus to win but have a healthy respect for the prowess of Lion stars, John Lovell, John Baines, John Cattenach, Monan and starlets, "Bugsy" Nyskohus and Colin Murray.

Tonight's late game will bring together Croatia and Beograd — two clubs which have set the turnstiles clicking merrily this summer.

Croatia, under new coach Ivo Radovnikovic, have improved miraculously on last season's form.

Croatia's pattern play and clever tactics held the power-packed Hellas side to a draw in their last game.

The cheering had hardly subsided, however, when Beograd swamped Austria 6-0 to record the highest winning margin of the series.

Beograd, always entertaining, are certain to worry Croatia but this should be one game in which experience will win through.

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WORLD CUP DRAW

EUROPE, STH. AMERICA

EACH LOSE BERTH

FOR MEXICAN FINALS

— By PAUL DEAN —

In making the draw for the qualifying rounds of the 1970 World Cup, FIFA have made one rather significant departure from the 1966 system.

Bowing to the increasing demand of the less developed nations, FIFA have, for the first time ever, guaranteed a place in the final 16 for Africa.

Asia, as in 1966, will also have a finalist. Rather surprisingly, FIFA also assured a berth for a country in the North and Central American zones — on top of Mexico, automatic qualifiers as hosts.

What purpose a weak USA or Costa Rica, for example, could serve in the final pool of 16 except being a "piece of cake" for some countries lucky enough to draw them in their final group, is hard to explain.

The increase of the Central/Northern American contingent and the presence of an African team compelled FIFA to reduce the number of finalists for South America and Europe.

In 1966 there were four South Americans in the final 16, now there will be only three; there were 10 Europeans, now there will be only nine.

This means roughly that once again FIFA has rejected the classic argument that the World Cup final pool of 16 should include the 16 best teams in the world — and leaned rather heavily towards geographical distribution, if not appeasement.

These are the qualifying groups:

Europe

GROUP 1 — Portugal, Switzerland, Rumania, Greece.

GROUP 2 — Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Denmark.

GROUP 3 — Italy, East Germany, Wales.

GROUP 4 — Soviet Union, Northern Ireland, Turkey.

GROUP 5 — France, Norway, Sweden.

GROUP 6 — Spain, Yugoslavia, Belgium, Finland.

GROUP 7 — West Germany, Scotland, Austria, Cyprus.

GROUP 8 — Bulgaria, Holland, Poland, Luxembourg.

South America

GROUP 10: — Argentina, Peru, Bolivia.

GROUP 11 — Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Paraguay.

GROUP 12 — Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador.

Central, North America

GROUP 13 (1) — Costa Rica, Honduras, Jamaica.

GROUP 13 (2) — Guatemala, Trinidad, Haiti.

GROUP 13 (3) — El Salvador, Surinam, French West Indies.

GROUP 13 (4) — United States, Bermuda, Canada.

The winner of Group 13 (1) will meet the winner of 13 (3) and that of 13 (2) to meet the winner of Group 13 (4).

The two winners will then meet to choose the team going to Mexico.

The dates for the first tour was picked as 31/12/68, the second for 30/6/69 and the third for 31/12/69.

Asia — Pacific area

GROUP 15 (1) — Japan, South Korea, Rhodesia Australia.

GROUP 15 (2) — North Korea, Israel, New Zealand.

The winner of Group 15 (1) will meet the winner of Group 15 (2) for the designation of the team going to Mexico.

Africa

GROUP 16 (1) — Algeria, Tunisia.

GROUP 16 (2) — Morocco, Senegal.

GROUP 16 (3) — Ethiopia, Libya.

GROUP 16 (4) — Sudan, Zambia.

GROUP 16 (5) — Cameroon, Nigeria.

GROUP 16 (6) — Ghana.

The winner of Group 16 (1) will meet that of Group 16 (2). The winner of Group 16 (3) will meet that of 16 (4). The winner of Group 16 (5) will meet Ghana.

Seedings

The eight European groups (the ninth qualifier will be England) are headed by countries who were also in the final 16 in England.

However, as there is one group less than in 1966, one country had to be lumped together with another qualifier — and this sad fate befell the Swiss, obviously regarded as the weakest European finalists in London.

Although the report does not say, it seems likely that apart from the top "seed", the others in the groups could have been simply drawn out of a hat.

On present form it is quite possible that the top "seed" will again be successful in the preliminaries.

Portugal should account for this group especially as the other three are certain to take points off one another. Their toughest opponents could be the Swiss who usually excel in these matches.

Hungary should go through without too much trouble as the Czechs are very far from their old selves while the Irish and Danes present little problem.

Italy is by no means a certainty; now that they managed to avoid their traditional nemesis, the Hungarians, East Germany will give them a very good run for their money.

The Russians hardly have anything to beat while in the next group France, once again fortunate with an easy draw, should account for the declining Swedes.

Spain, Yugoslavia and Belgium will stage some big battles for survival and it would come as no big shock to see the Yugoslavs, now rebuilding on youth, knock out the Spaniards who have

never attained the same height with their international team as with some of their club sides.

West Germany, always one of the most thoroughly prepared teams, should be too strong for the brilliant but disorganised Scots while in the last group the fast improving Bulgarians must start as hot favorites ahead of Poland.

In South America the three "giants", Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay will probably breeze through; only Chile may cause some difficulties.

In the Central/North American groups Costa Rica looks the strongest — unless

the Americans, now enveloped in some form of soccer hysteria, decided that it's worth a good try and build a team with the aid of quick naturalisations.

Ghana, Ethiopia and Algeria are the strongest of the Africans, with Libya, Tunisia and Senegal also improving; Sudan, Cameroon and Nigeria are at the moment out-classed.

It is interesting to note that Ivory Coast, regarded as the best in Africa, have not nominated and also absent are the UAR, Kenya, Malagasy, and Congo-Kinshasa, fairly strong African nations.

Auburn seeking quick come-back

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

Auburn Soccer Club (formerly Cumberland United), relegated last season to Second Division, plans to make a determined effort to win this year's Second Division championship.

"Despite the loss of many key players, Auburn is still very confident that its stay in Second Division will be short and successful," says club president, Ken Ferguson, an experienced administrator, who for many years watched and managed the fortunes of the unpredictable Auburn side.

In the last few weeks, Auburn has lost the services of John Keddie to APIA, Dave Goldie to Melita Eagles, Robert Hopkins to St. George-Budapest, Warren Addison to Polonia and Joe Keenan to George Cross in Melbourne.

Yet, even after the loss of so many players, Auburn still has the nucleus of a strong combination which will mainly comprise of promising youngsters from last season's reserves who never had the chance to really prove themselves in first class football.

Many of these youngsters were in the side which won the third grade championship last year and several of them made odd appearances in the first team.

These youngsters will get their chance this year and will be blended into the side with some experienced players still retained by the club to form a balanced combination which, at least on paper, would be as strong as any at present in the division.

Players like Kenny Edwards (last year's top goalscorer within the club), Tommy Allan and Dennis Wall will be playing side by side with experienced campaigners like Clive Thomson, Jim Christie, Allan Moffat and many others.

John Brommett and Irish international Mal O'Neill, who were on loan to Gran-

ville last year, have signed again for Auburn.

In line with the club's policy to foster and encourage the youth of the district, the committee has retained Len Quested to teach and develop the juniors, and starting this week, an extensive three-day coaching course is being conducted at Mona Park Auburn, as a sequel to a summer coaching school started last November.



Auburn's new coach
Z. NOWACKI

To ensure success and attract as many youngsters as possible, the club has issued an open invitation to players over 14 years of age to take part in this course. (See advertisement on Page 2.)

Auburn has appointed Z. Nowacki, the former Polonia half-back, as first team coach for the 1968 season.

With no financial difficulties whatsoever, and with the full backing of the Auburn Soccer Sports Club Ltd., the club will be able to consolidate and better its position all-round, and all in all is looking towards a very successful season.

LONDON NEWSLETTER

Manchester United, currently drawing the largest average attendances of any club in the world (ahead of Real Madrid and FC Nurnberg), have been invited for a match in New York's famous Yankee Stadium in July. Their opponents would be the New York Generals, managed by ex-United man Freddie Goodwin.

According to the latest reports, the English club have been promised air fares, first class accommodation plus \$US 19,000 for one match — almost as much as they received in Australia last year for their entire tour . . .

* * *

There is a strong move afoot in Glasgow to bypass the "Anglo-Scots" when the Scotland team is selected for that vital European Championship match against England on February 24.

Some section of the Scottish Press is clamoring for a fully Scotland-based team and the exclusion of Law, Baxter, Bremner, Ferguson, Cooke and others now with English clubs.

They feel that a Scotland built solidly on Celtic and Rangers would put up a better fight than most of the expatriates.

* * *

Denis Law, ace goalgetter of Manchester United, now holds the dubious "honor" of having been sent off more times than any other Football League player since the war.

Law has had five dismissals — one with Torino in Italy and four with Manchester United, including one in Perth, Western Australia.

As Law has just turned 28, he has a fair chance of making this record almost unbreakable . . .

* * *

That great old man of Welsh soccer, Ivor Allchurch is still going strong.

The 38-year-old star is still the top scorer of Swansea Town and is leading the club's campaign to fight their way back into the Third Division.

* * *

The footprints of Sir Stanley Matthews will appear on the walls of thousands of British factories, aiding a Safety Council campaign to reduce the number of industrial accidents to feet which costs British industry about a million pounds weekly.

* * *

It just had to happen. Portsmouth have installed a children's nursery at their Fratton Park ground where they can cater for some 50 youngsters while their parents watch the matches. Two trained nurses and a large variety of toys keep the babes happy. The scheme is such a success that Portsmouth intend to enlarge the capacity to 200.

* * *

Newport County have a new president — pop singer Tom Jones himself, of course, a Welshman.

Born at Pontypridd, Jones started his singing career in South Wales working men's clubs before

making his first hit, "It's Not Unusual."

Neither is, apparently, his appointment.

* * *

Scotland's current international goalie, the solidly built Tommy Lawrence has just completed 10 years' service with Liverpool.

In his first six years there he didn't get even one match in the first team — yet he stayed on.

Now he is first choice of Liverpool and Scotland — surely a reward for a patiently confident man.

* * *

Since taking over Tottenham Hotspur in 1958, manager Bill Nicholson has spent an estimated £800,000 (some \$1,800,000) on new players.

Their most recent signing, Martin Chivers, cost them a British record of £125,000 — and this for a player who has never even played for England.

Actually, £80,000 was paid in cash and £45,000 was the value put on Tottenham's Frank Saul who went with the deal in part exchange.

* * *

The English Football League doesn't believe in nonsense — even with their glamor clubs.

Liverpool were fined £100 because two of their players recently arrived late at their ground, delaying the kick-off against Manchester City by two and a half minutes.

* * *

Geoff Butler at the moment probably has more cash than any other English football star. The fact that probably you have never even heard of him adds piquancy to the matter.

Last September Docherty, then still with the "Pensioners," signed Butler, a fullback, for £57,000. However, Butler never settled down in London and so Chelsea transferred him to Sunderland for £65,000.

As any player is permitted to pocket five per cent of the sums involved in his transfers as signing-on fee, Butler collected a cool £6,100 cash within 110 days.

* * *

Scottish Second Division is struggling badly to survive a continuing decline in attendances.

Weekly total averages have dropped by 20,000 since last year and most clubs are happy if they draw as many as 1,000 spectators.

Which, even for semi-professional clubs, is dangerously below the headline.

* * *

Published by Soccer World Publishing Co. Pty Ltd., and printed by New Life Printery Pty. Ltd., 54 Renwick Street, Marrickville, N.S.W.



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